Nº. 1.

THE PETITION

Of the Gentry, Ministers, and Commonalty of the County of

KENT.

Agreed upon at the Generall Assizes last holden for that County.

The Copie of which Petition being delivered to Judge *Mallet* (who was for that Circuit) and afterwards to the Earle of *Bristoll*.

Which Petition being concealed from the Parliament by the Earle of *Bristoll* and the said Judge *Mallet*, was for the same, both committed to the Tower, *March* 28. 1642.

LONDON, Printed for *S. H.* 1642.

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March 18[illegible]

LONDON, Printed for [illegible]

To the Honourable House of Commons Assembled in PARLIAMENT.

The Humble Petition of the Gentry, Ministers, and Commonalty of the County of Kent, agreed upon, at the generall Assizes of the County.

Most humbly sheweth,

THat wee cannot but take notice, how welcome to this Honorable House, many Petitions have beene, which yet came not from an Assembled body of any County (as this doth) we doe therefore hope to find as gentle and favourable a reception of this as any other have found of their Petitions, our hearts witnessing unto us, as good, peaceable, and pious purposes as the best.

These are therefore the true and Ardent desires of this Countie.

1. That you will be pleased to accept our due and

heartie thanks for those excellent Lawes (which by his Majesties grace & goodnesse) you have obtained for us.

2. That all Lawes against Papists, be put in due execution, and an accompt taken of their disarming, and that all Children of the Papists, may be brought up in the reformed Religion.

3. That the Solemne *Liturgy* of the Church of *England* Celebrious by the piety of the Bishops and Martyrs who composed it, establisht by the supreame Lawes of this Land, attested and approved by the best of all Forraigne Divines, confirmed by the subscription of all the Ministry of this Land, A Clergy as able and Learned as any in the Christian world ere injoyed, and with a holy love embraced by the most and best of all the Laity, that this holy exercise of Religion may by your Authority be injoyed quiet and free from interruptions, scornes, prophanenesse, threats and force of such men, who dayly do deprave it, and neglect the use of it in divers Churches, in despight of the Lawes established.

prophanation

4. That Episcopall Government, as Antient in this Iland as Christianity it selfe, deduced and dispersed throughout the Christian world, even from the Apostolicall times, may be preserved (as the most pious most prudent, and most safe Government) for the peace of the Church.

5. That all differences concerning Religion and Ceremonies, may be referred to a Lawfull, free, and Nationall Synod, as your Remonstrance promiseth, to a generall Synod of most grave, learned, pious and Judicious Divines, (the proper Agents) whose interests, gifts, and callings, may quicken them in that great Worke, whose choyce to be by all the Clergy

of

of the Land, because all the Clergy are to be bound by their Resolutions, and the determination of this Synod to bind us all, when you have first formed them into a Law, and this we take to be according to the antient and fundamentall Law of this Land, confirmed by *Magna Charta*.

6. That some speedy and good provision may be made (as by his Majesty hath been and is by all good men desired) against the odious & abominable scandall of schismaticall and seditious Sermons and Pamphlets, and some severe Law made against Lay-men, for daring to arrogate to themselves, and to execute the holy function of the Ministry, who (some of them) doe sowe their impious and discontented Doctrine even in Sacred places, by abuse of Sacred Ordinances, to the advancing of Heresie, Schisme, Prophanenesse, Libertinisme, Anabaptisme, and Atheisme.

7. That if the coertive power of Ecclesiasticall Courts by way of Excommunication be already abrogated, or shall be thought fit so to be, that there be some other power and authority speedily established, for suppressing the loynous and now so much abounding sinnes of Incest, Adultery, and Fornication, and other crimes, and for recovering Tythes, repairing of Churches, Probate of Wills, Church Assesses, providing Bread and Wine for the Communion, and choice of Church-Wardens, and other Officers in the Church and especially for Ministers, who neglect the Celebrating of the Holy Communion, and the Parishioners for not Receiving.

8. That the Professors of that Learned faculty of the Civill Law, (without which this Kingdome cannot but suffer manifold Inconveniences) may not find discouragements, and so divert their Studies and Professions.

9. That

9. That honour and profits the powerfull encouragements of industry, Learning, and Piety, may bee preserved without further dimination to the Clergie.

10. That you please sadly to consider the bleeding wounds of our Brethren in *Ireland*, and with speedy succours endeavour to preserve them, whereunto his Majesty hath promised a gracious concurrence.

11. That you please to frame an especiall Law for the Regulating of the *Militia* of this Kingdome, so that the Subject may know how at once to obey both his Majesty and both Houses of Parliament; a Law whereby may be left to the discretion of Governours, as little as may be, but that the number of Armes and what measure of punishment shall be inflicted upon the offendors, may be expresly set downe in the Act, and not left to any Arbitrary power, and that according to the president of former Lawes the offendors may not be tryed out of the County.

12. That the Precious Liberty of the Subject (the common birth right of every *Englishman*) may be as in all these poynts preserved entire, so in this also, that no order of either of both Houses not grounded on the Lawes of this Land, may be enforced on the Subject, till it be fully enacted by Parliament.

13. That his Majesties gracious Message of the 20. of *Jan.* last, for the present and future establishment of the Priviledges of Parliament, the free enjoying of our estates and Fortunes, the liberty of our persons, the security of the true Religion professed, the maintaining of his Majesties Iust and Regall Authority, the establishing his Revenue, may be taken into speedy consideration, the effecting whereof will satisfie the desires of all us, his faythfull and loving Subjects.

14. That

14. That all possible care may be taken, that the Native Commodities of this Kingdome, may have a quicke Vent, and that Cloathing, and other Mannufactures may be improved, wherein the livelyhood of of many thousands doe consist, and that Trade may be soe ballanced, that the importation doe not exceed the exportation, which otherwise it will prove a consumption of the Land.

15. That you please to frame some Lawes concerning Depopulations, Purveyances, Cart-taking, delayes in Iustice, Trafficke, Fishing on the Coasts, Fulling Earth, that our Sea Forts may be repayred, and our Magazines renewed.

16. That you please to consider the generall poverty that seemes to overgrow this Kingdome.

17. Lastly, Wee humbly beseech you to consider the sad condition, that we and the whole Land are in, if a good understanding be not speedily renued betweene his Majestie and both houses of Parliament.

Our hopes are yet above our feares, secure them we beseech you, God direct and guide all your consultations for the removing of all distrusts and Iealousies, for the renuing that tye of confidence and trust, (which is the highest happinesse) betweene our most gracious Prince, and his loving Subjects,.

And you shall have the dayly prayers of your humble Orators of the Commonalty of Kent.

To meete at *Blacke Heath* the 29. of *Aprill.* by 9. of the Clocke at the furthest to accompanie this Petition to the Parliament. 1642.

FINIS.